

CLAIMS

1. Lachrymal plug adapted essentially to allow the blockage of the lachrymal ducts to overcome a deficiency of the lachrymal glands by decreasing or suppressing the flow of tears toward the nasal cavities, characterized in that it is constituted of a substantially cylindrical body (10), on the external lateral walls of which are implanted flexible elements, that can be applied against these walls to allow the insertion of the lachrymal plug in the lachrymal duct (4, 5), and can straighten when they are released so as to maintain said lachrymal plug in position.
2. Lachrymal plug according to claim 1, characterized in that the flexible elements are constituted of radial pins (11).
3. Lachrymal plug according to claim 2, characterized in that the pins (11) are tilted in the direction of the nasal cavities (7), so that they cannot be displaced by the natural peristalsis of the lachrymal duct driving tears and foreign bodies inwardly.
4. Lachrymal plug according to any of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the pins (11) are of a constant length.
5. Lachrymal plug according to any of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that the pins (11) are of a variable length.
6. Lachrymal plug according to claim 5, characterized in that the pins (11) are of an increasing or decreasing length.
7. Lachrymal plug according to any of claims 2-6, characterized in that the pins (11) are arranged in helical formation around the body (10).
8. Lachrymal plug according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises one or several elements, such as flexible disks, arranged to ensure its impermeability.
9. Lachrymal plug according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the flexible elements are predetermined to have sufficient elasticity to partially penetrate into the inner wall (12) of the lachrymal

canaliculus (4, 5) by straightening, so as to ensure that the lachrymal plug is firmly held in position.

10. Lachrymal plug according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is provided with an axial duct (13) allowing for a reduced passage of the tears.
11. Lachrymal plug according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the body (10) is in the form of a cone, a double cone, or a diabololo.
12. Lachrymal plug according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it is made of metal.
13. Lachrymal plug according to any of claims 1-11, characterized in that it is made of shape memory metal.
14. Lachrymal plug according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a radio-opaque reference, visible with X-rays, to facilitate the marking during its progression when it is positioned.
15. Method for positioning a lachrymal plug according to the preceding claims, characterized in that this positioning is carried out by means of a tube (15) having a push rod (16), arranged to allow pressing the pins (11) against the outer wall of the element (10) and to release them once the prosthesis is in position.
16. Method for positioning a lachrymal plug according to claims 1-14, characterized in that this positioning is carried out by means of an instrument provided with jaws, similar to those of a mechanical pencil, said instrument being arranged to also allow undertaking the removal of the prosthesis.